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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/31/2007
 LAST UPDATED 2/24/2007 HB HM 3/aHFL

SPONSOR Picraux

SHORT TITLE Young Children & Families Continuum Group SB

ANALYST Weber

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Human Services Department (HSD)
 Department Of Health (DOH)
 Children, Youth and Families (CYFD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of HFI Amendment

The amendment makes minor language changes that have no impact on the substance of the memorial.

Synopsis of Original Bill

House Memorial 3 creates the Young Children and Families Continuum Work Group (Work Group). The Work Group would be appointed equally by the Chair of the Children's Cabinet and the Chair and Vice Chair of the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee Work Group and would include persons representing the Early Childhood Action Network (ECAN): child health; and child development, mental health, early care, education, human services, community providers, advocates, businesses and faith communities, the media, academia, and child development research fields, and include family representatives and members representing the cultural, ethnic, economic and geographic diversity of the state. Membership would include

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family representatives with experience in health, mental health, education and social needs of young children birth to age eight and their families.

The Work Group would set priorities for investment over the next three years to strengthen a comprehensive statewide early childhood system. The system would address the following areas: family involvement and family support; physical and mental health; early learning; child safety; and transition from early childhood to school. The group will be charged to make recommendations on a continuum of services to better coordinate and link components of the present comprehensive system. The group would make recommendations to improve families' access to a continuum of services; improve lives of children; and set a foundation for school and personal success.

The Work Group would report its recommendations to the interim legislative Health and Human Services Committee by November 2007. A copy of this memorial is to be transmitted to the Children's Cabinet.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Department of Health comments.

Extensive evidence is available to show the association between comprehensive services in early infancy and preschool years and performance in primary, secondary and post-secondary school. Economists of the federal reserve bank of Minneapolis have determined through research that investment in early childhood programs produces an annual rate of return of sixteen percent.

CYFD adds.

The activities required by the memorial could eventually result in positive long-term impact across multiple agencies and their target client populations through reduced poverty-related expenses (i.e., crime, healthcare, housing, TANF); reduced employment-related expenses resulting from lower unemployment, work absence, and higher average wages; reduced health-related expenses directly related to early detection of developmental conditions; and through improved educational achievement and family well-being.

HSD notes the similarities of the group proposed with the existing Early Childhood Action new work.

The work group would include representatives from the Early Childhood Action Network (ECAN), child health and development, mental health, early care, education and human services community providers, advocates, businesses and faith communities, the media, academia and child development research fields. The representatives mentioned above are already represented in the ECAN and the early childhood issues identified in this memorial are also similar to those currently being addressed by ECAN, so it is not clear what the difference would be between these two groups.

MW/nt